

Dodd Miss Fanny

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LITERATURE OF THE DAY.

A STORY OF PERIL.

The following painfully interesting story will give one an idea of the suffering which, and often actually endured, by those brave men who give their time and strength to exploring unknown regions, that they may add something to our imperfect knowledge of the earth we live on, or even the country we live in.

A Mr. Evans, of Helena, Montana, was one of an exploring party, awhile since, in the wild regions about the sources of the Snake and Yellowstone Rivers, in Montana. It was a high region, over eight thousand feet above the level of the ocean—one never visited before by a white man, and which even the Indians had never inhabited. It was a wooded country, its trackless wilds covered with fallen timber, making travel very slow on foot or horseback.

The party scattered in search of game, one day, and Mr. Evans followed a deer's trail, till at nightfall he realized that he was lost in the woods. He halted at that night, not doubting that he could retrace his steps, and rejoin the party the next day.

Starting early the next morning, a little too early to see clearly, he dismounted from his horse to examine his trail more closely. When the beast, frightened by something, started away on a run, and he saw no more of him.

Attached to the saddle were his carbine, pistols, ammunition, fishing-tackle, matches—everything, in fact, of his equipment, except the clothing on his body. Of course he realized now that it was a serious business.

Thinking, however, that some of the party would be back to look for him, he remained in that vicinity for a day or two; but his friends knowing that he was mounted on a good horse, did not doubt that he would soon overtake them, and had pushed on two days' journey before they stopped to wait, or make search for him.

In the meantime the first snow of the season, two feet in depth, fell, making all following trails of journeys on foot impossible for Mr. Evans, and perilling his life from exposure. It was saved by a provision of nature—the hot springs!

He remembered that they had passed some of these, five or six miles from the spot where he became separated from the party, and succeeded in making his way back to them. He lay by these, on the ground warmed by the springs, till the snow went off, sustaining life on a kind of thistle-root, which could be eaten when sodden in the hot water in the springs, though having little nourishment in it.

There were plenty of elk and other game in the woods, and fish in the streams, but he was wholly without means to take them. Neither did he dare to leave the springs without some means of kindling a fire. How to get the first spark was the problem. Fortunately he had with him his field glass, and using its lenses as a burning-glass, he succeeded on a bright day in lighting a fire with some rotten wood.

He then started on the track of the party, using his burning-glass to make a fire in bright weather and carrying brands in his hands from one stopping place to another on cloudy days, burning his fingers terribly in the process, in spite of all precautions.

Two nights he had to spend without fire, and with the utmost difficulty kept himself alive by constant motion and rubbing of his stiffening limbs. A single small bird, and a small fish or two, gave him all the food he had, except the thistle-roots. His boots gave out, and his feet became worn to the bone.

In spite of all he pushed on, and thirty-eight days from the day he was lost, he met a party coming to find him, but his lifeless remains for they had no hope of finding him alive. He had made his way over a hundred miles toward civilization; he had become reduced in weight from one hundred and sixty to eighty pounds. But he was alive, and is a living and healthy man to-day, though his feet bear the scars of the terrible wear of that month of foot-travel.—*Phila. Sat. Night.*

BABY'S FIRST STEPS.

A young child's bones are soft and cartilaginous, and keeping a poor little thing tied up against a chair, when it ought to be lying on its back kicking the air and strengthening its limbs, or crawling on the nursery floor, is positively injurious and sinful. It is done with the view of teaching it all the sooner to maintain the erect attitude; but bent legs may be the result, and however strong a bent-legged man may be, he certainly does not look elegant. Let the child creep, then, and as soon as he finds that he can pull himself up, and stand by the side of a box, he will do so. This is the only safe and natural process. Soon after this he will, if encouraged, venture upon what parents call the first step. Let him creep, and when he walks and falls, laugh at him. Unless you want to make the child an idiot, do not rush to pull him up. Children are not all brittle, and they ought to learn at a very early age to depend upon the strength Nature has endowed them with. Some nurses tie a hand around a poor child's waist, and then shove him, kicking and sprawling, on before them, during which time the child looks as graceful as the golden lamb which hovers hanging out as a sign. The practice is most injurious.

THRIVING IN FREEDOM.

The few horses which, camping now and then from the paddocks of colonists on the edge of the settled districts of Australia, have made themselves at home in the freedom and abundant pastures of the interior, have multiplied to such an extent, that, notwithstanding the numbers captured or shot every year, it is estimated that there are something like one hundred thousand of them in the two most populous colonies—Victoria and New South Wales—or meaning the plains immediately contiguous to their borders.

All that I have accomplished, or expect or hope to accomplish, is now and will be by that plucking, patient, persevering process of accretion which builds the ant heap, particle by particle, thought by thought, fact by fact.

Live such a noble life that death shall be only a transition from this world to another.

One's self-satisfaction is an unwholesome kind of property which it is very unpleasant to find depreciated.

Indiscriminate demands about a spot with bold claims.